"WE INDIGNANTLY DENY."

MESSRS. DIEPENBROCK AND STEINBACK CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE NEVER DEFRAUDED THE GOVERNMENT—SOMETHING ABOUT CROSSES AND REGALIA.

An article appeared in the HERALD a few days ago giving the particulars of alleged extensive frauds on the revenue, through the importation of church goods, by the firm of F. Pustet, doing business at No. 52 Barclay street. In order to ascertain what the implicated parties had to say in the premises a HERALD reporter called at the place mentioned yesterday and found Messrs. Diepenbrock and Steinback, who represent the firm in this city, Mr. Pustet being absent in Germany, where he resides. Upon inquiry as to whether they had any statement to make in regard to the alleged transactions Mr. Diepenbrock replied as follows:—

"In the first place we court investigation into the manner in which our goods are imported, and we are tolerably well satisfied this whole story of alleged frauds on the revenue has originated in business rivalry. One of the charges is that we have been in the habit of selling church regalia out of our already imported stock, on which we had paid the duty, to Catholic clergymen, who might call on us and make oath that the goods were for their own use, instead of our importing the articles after the affidavit had been made.

"Is that charge correct?"

"It is. We do not deny having made such sales. I will tell you how they happen. A priest, for instance, comes to our store three days before Christmas and wants a full set of vestments, valued, we will say, at $1,000. We will suppose that the cost of the vestments has been a donation from some of the clergyman's church people, who, perhaps, would wish him to appear in it on Christmas Day. Now, the priest is anxious to save the duty of sixty per cent on the articles, and, instead of paying $1,000, he pays from $400 to $600. We, on the other hand, are, of course, anxious to make a sale. The priest then makes the required oath and gets the vestments, less the duty. Then we use the oath mentioned to import other vestments of a similar value to those sold to the priest. There is one thing I want to say, and that is that whenever we imported church regalia we always gave the clergymen the benefit of such free importation. In other words, whenever we imported an article in this manner—free of duty—we never charged the priest for the duty which we had not paid on it. Then again, it is asserted that we have not complied with the law in importing statuary."

"WORKS OF ART."

"Is that included in the charges brought against your house by the government officials?"

"No; we have had no trouble whatever on that account. We claim that the statues imported by us, being made by artists, are works of art, and as such they should pay only the duty imposed by law on such importations. Most of the statues are modelled by Professor Knabl, and come from Mayr's Artistic Institute, Munich, and are painted by artists. They are not common works, by any means. Now, in regard to the statement that we had imported new books for old ones printed twenty years ago, in order to save the duty, there is no foundation whatever for that. Certainly the government hasn't brought any such charge against us, and I am at a loss to know where it could come from except from the source I have already intimated."

"What portion of your goods, if any, was seized by the government?"

"Nothing at all; not one cent's worth either in the store or at the Custom House. More than that, there was no money paid by us to compromise any suit brought by the government. It is not true that a civil action was commenced against our firm by the government. There was simply a hearing before a United States Assistant District Attorney, who, together with two special agents of the Treasury (Messrs. Tichener and Kimball), examined our books. As a result, there was no bail required or given. Such a thing as bail was not even mentioned."

"Would you like to make any reply to the alleged altering or forging of priests' oaths by your firm?"

"Such a thing has never been done in our house. The affidavits of the priests who may order or buy church regalia have to be given by them in blank, and are filled out by us as soon as we ascertain by what steamer the goods are coming and as soon as we know the marks on the cases containing such goods. We cannot fill out the blanks before that, as the government requires us to give the marks on the boxes, the name of the steamer by which they are shipped and the port from which she has sailed. From a great many of the priests to whom we sold regalia in the manner already stated we did not receive the required affidavits. We lost the duty in several cases on this account. In one instance we sold to a Catholic clergyman here in the city a set of vestments valued at $1,250 for $800. As we got no affidavit from him we were losers to the extent of the difference. The whole trouble seems to be that we have probably allowed some irregularities to creep into our business while endeavoring to accommodate the priests; but as to the charge of defrauding the government, we indignantly deny it."

CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS.

"Your firm is also charged with a wrong classification of silk goods?"

"We deny this also. On the entry such goods were classified as 'church regalia, thirty-five per cent,' and it would require an expert to decide whether the goods were entitled to pay such a duty or more. The largest amount of our importations were cheap goods for poor churches, and the duty on them is not more than thirty-five per cent. Of course, every importer tries to get his goods passed at as low a rate of duty as possible. Again, I observe by the papers that we are charged with importing and passing gold crosses as jewelry. Now perhaps there are some who might be under the impression that the crosses mentioned were large and valuable ones, such as bishops wear, whereas they are very small and such as ladies and children wear for ornaments, and the best of them are valued at not more than $3. Outside of the newspapers we know nothing of such a charge. The government has not mentioned such a thing. It is also said that the government has lost through us, on statuary alone, the sum of $12,000, while the fact is that we claim from the government for excessive duties on this class of goods $15,000. During our business experience of over twelve years in the city, this is the first time that a breath of suspicion has been cast upon the integrity of our house; and if the government has at any time suffered a loss by our importations it has been wholly without our knowledge or intent. During the past few days we have been called upon by a large number of Catholic clergymen, who have expressed their sympathy in regard to the newspaper notoriety which we have of late unjustly received."

Mr. Steinback, who was present during the interview, fully concurred in all of the above statements made by his partner.

A REVENUE OFFICER SUSPENDED.

Secretary Sherman sent a despatch yesterday to Mr. Silas B. Dutcher, Appraiser of the Port, to suspend from duty Mr. A. Gilbert, Assistant Appraiser of the Second division. This action is said to have been taken by the department on account of the irregularities found in connection with the case of Mr. Snyder, a former examiner in that division. Collector Merritt returned yesterday from Washington and, it is presumed, that the department acted in this matter at his instance.

CHARGES OF BRIBERY.

THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF INSPECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS ARRAIGNED ON A GRAVE ACCUSATION.

There has been mischief brewing for the Department of Buildings among certain contractors and builders for a long time, but it was only on Thursday afternoon that it took definite shape. Then a lawyer appeared before Justice Flammer in the Jefferson Market Police Court and submitted a complaint, which is said to be the first of a series to be brought against officials of the Department. In it Mordaunt Bodine, of No. 151 West Fourteenth street, charges and complains that—

On or about the 25th day of September, 1879, at the city of New York and in the county of New York, Robert McGinnis, who was then a public officer—Chief of the Bureau of Inspection of the Department of Buildings in the city of New York—did wilfully and feloniously receive a bribe—the sum of $250—from one George Hilyard, who was employed by me to repair the building known as No. 29 Third avenue in said city and county of New York, and that said Robert McGinnis did so receive said money for the privilege of rebuilding and repairing said house, No. 29 Third avenue.

As Mr. McGinnis is filling a position under the city government, out of courtesy only a summons was issued. In compliance with it he appeared yesterday afternoon before Justice Flammer, to whom the following affidavits were submitted:—

WHAT IT WOULD COST.

Mordaunt Bodine testifies under oath that he resides at No. 151 West Fourteenth street. Is the agent of George Chesterman, of No. 135 West Fourteenth street, who is the owner of a certain building known as No. 29 Third avenue. That it was decided that Mr. Hilyard should call upon Henry J. Dudley, Superintendent of the Department of Buildings, for the purpose of inducing him to modify the mandate contained in these notices so that the owners of the building should be permitted to repair it instead of taking it down, as directed. Thereafter said Hilyard and one Hugh Cairns called upon Mr. Dudley and endeavored to obtain Mr. Dudley's permission to repair the building. Mr. Dudley peremptorily refused to allow it but insisted that it should be taken down. After the visit of Hilyard and Cairns to Dudley, the deponent, in company with them, called upon Dudley again at the office of the Department of Buildings for the purpose of renewing their requests for his consent. Mr. Dudley stated that he was acquainted with the condition of the building and there was no use saying anything, as he himself had personally examined it. Afterward the deponent persuaded Mr. Dudley to re-examine the building and in the re-examination there were present one Robert McGinnis, George D. Hilyard, Hugh Cairns and the deponent. Mr. Dudley went through the building, and remarked that it was in a terrible condition. A few days later Hilyard called at the office of the Department of Buildings and saw Robert McGinnis, who is an officer there. On this visit Hilyard asked him what it would cost to get a permit to repair the building to do away with the necessity of taking it down. McGinnis replied that as the matter had gone so far considerable expense had already been incurred, and it would cost $250 to procure the permit. Hilyard reported this to the deponent, who gave him $250 to hand to McGinnis and thus obtain the desired permit. Hilyard afterward reported to the deponent that he had paid the $250 to McGinnis, that it was all right and we could go ahead and repair the building. Accordingly repairs were commenced which are now going on. The deponent also alleges that since the payment of the money the owner of the building has not in any way been interfered with or molested by the Building Department.

"A QUARTER OF A THOUSAND."

George D. Hilyard, of No. 144 East Forty-ninth street, then made the following affidavit:—

I am a builder, and am acquainted with Mordaunt Bodine. I repaired a building known as No. 29 Third avenue. * * * I called on Robert McGinnis and told him the building could be repaired by taking out the rotten timber and replacing it by new timber, which would insure the safety of the building. McGinnis admitted that it could be done. He said that there were some expenses attached to this matter which would have to be settled before it could be done. I asked him the amount of those expenses, and he said a quarter of a thousand. I told Mr. Bodine the result of the conversation, and he gave me $250, which I paid to Mr. McGinnis. I understood that the $250 paid by me to Mr. McGinnis was for expenses. After the money was paid we went on with the work. I never received any written authorization to go on with the repairing of the building, but I did receive an oral authorization from him. The work is now about finished. I make this affidavit in obedience to a subpœna served upon me this day, issued out of the Second District Police Court by Justice Charles A. Flammer.

Hugh Cairns, of No. 311 West Twenty-first street, then affirmed that all the facts stated in Hilyard's affidavit in regard to an interview between Mr. Dudley, the deponent, Mr. Mordaunt Bodine and Hilyard were in all respects true. Superintendent Dudley's report on the building, which was then placed in evidence, says:—

The floors have badly deflected, the foundation under the chimney is bulged and decayed. The main foundation is cracked, bulged, and portions have fallen out. The first story floor is decayed and in a dangerous condition, and the building is generally dilapidated and unsafe and should be taken down.

When these papers had been submitted Justice Flammer said he would fix the hearing for next Thursday, at Essex Market Police Court. Mr. McGinnis says he can disprove the charge.

ROTTEN TELEGRAPH POLES.

THE COMPANIES TO BE COMPELLED TO BRAND THEIR POLES.

The cases in which persons have been injured by falling telegraph poles in different parts of this city have of late been more numerous than heretofore. Only a short time since an action was commenced against the corporation to recover damages for injuries received through an "accident" of this nature and the city was mulcted. General attention has been drawn to instances of this kind and the city authorities will, it is stated, be asked to take some decisive course in the premises. Alderman Morris, on August 10, 1876, had an ordinance passed, which, if enforced, would relieve the city from liability in cases of injuries received from rotten poles. The Mayor signed it on the very day after its passage. The following is a copy of the law:—

Resolved, That the Commissioner of Public Works be and he is hereby directed to notify the several telegraph companies owning or using the telegraph poles now erected or that may hereafter be erected in any street, avenue or public place within the corporate limits of the city of New York to brand or paint upon a conspicuous place on every such pole within thirty days after being so notified the name of the company or other owner of every such pole. Every telegraph company or other owner of any such pole who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the directions mentioned in this resolution shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall thereby incur a penalty of $10 for every day such violation shall continue, and it shall be and is hereby made the duty of the Commissioners of Police to report every such violation to the Corporation Attorney, who shall prosecute the same, and the offender shall be punished pursuant to the provisions of sections 20 and 21 of an act relative to the powers of the Common Council of the city of New York and the criminal courts of said city, passed by the Legislature of this State January 23, 1853, and to the provisions of section 5 of article 4 of an act in relation to the Police Department of the city of New York, passed April 13, 1853. And be it further

Resolved, That each of the departments and officers of the city government using telegraph poles be and they are hereby respectively required and directed to brand or paint in like manner upon every telegraph pole so used by them the name of the department using every such telegraph pole.

It will be seen that if the authorities were diligent in enforcing compliance with this law on the part of telegraph companies, the persons injured would be able to discover what persons were responsible for keeping on a thoroughfare dilapidated and rotten poles. As it is at present the citizen sues the city for negligence, and in many cases it is almost impossible to fasten the responsibility on the really guilty persons. In case prompt attention to the law is not given by the companies, it is intended to adopt, it is said, more vigorous measures to secure the ordinance being respected.

AGENT BROWN'S FINANCES.

Josiah T. Brown, an agent of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, at No. 160 Broadway, has been arrested by the Sheriff on an order obtained from Judge Donohue and released on $13,000 bail in a civil suit brought against him by Jacob F. Wyckoff to recover $11,310 71 which the latter alleges he loaned him, the papers in the case being returned by the Sheriff yesterday. In the first complaint Mr. Wyckoff alleges that on August 24, 1878, Mr. Brown applied to him for the loan of $3,500, having a short time previously represented to Mr. Wyckoff that he was worth $100,000 over and above all debts and that he had been for many years an agent of the Mutual and other life insurance companies in a percentage that yielded him an annual average net profit of about $16,000. The loan was finally made, as he claims, on the strength of these representations on August 26, and five days later Mr. Brown, as further charged, went into voluntary bankruptcy, his schedules showing over $242,000 liabilities. In an interview some time after the bankruptcy proceedings were taken Mr. Wyckoff avers that Mr. Brown admitted that some time previous to going into bankruptcy he had sold out a large part of his business, and that on August 24, previous to obtaining the loan, he had been advised to make the application in bankruptcy and had determined and consented to do so. Mr. Wyckoff alleges in the second complaint that on April 4, 1877, he loaned Mr. Brown $20,000, of which a portion was afterward repaid, leaving a balance, which is now sued for; and that, in case there was default in payment of the loan, Mr. Brown was to transfer his life insurance business to Mr. Wyckoff and to manage it in the latter's interest until the debt was paid. At the office of Mr. Brown it was stated yesterday that he was very sick and unable to attend to business, and was not expected to go down town for some little time to come.

THE UNPOPULAR CENTAL.

The Grain Trade of the Produce Exchange still continues its opposition to the cental system, and considerable excitement was created yesterday at the last "call" when Mr. J. H. Herrick, chairman of the Committee on Grain, informed the trade that he had been instructed to read a letter from Mr. Mr. W. J. Langson, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at Milwaukee, in which that gentleman stated that the fate of the cental system (for the present generation) depended on the adherence of the Board of Managers to the declarations they had made in relation to it. Mr. Langson, in addition, says that the friends of the system in Milwaukee believe that New York can more easily inaugurate the system than any other market on the continent, because of its more direct relations with Liverpool, where the cental is in vogue, and that if New York adopt and firmly adhere to the system the other markets of the country will inevitably follow. He claims that nine out of every ten men in any business community are in favor of the cental and that the opponents of the system are old fogies. The reading of this letter was received with groans and hisses. Accompanying it was a set of resolutions from the Chamber of Commerce at Milwaukee, in which that body indorses the cental system. A motion was made to lay the resolution on the table, but it was not seconded.

Mr. Henry T. Kneeland then said that he had a copy of a set of resolutions lately adopted by the Peoria Board of Trade condemning the cental system. He was proceeding to read them when Chairman Herrick declared him out of order and said that the "call" must proceed. This decision caused great excitement, and amid the din Mr. Kneeland, in a loud voice, read his communication.

VACANT POLICE JUSTICESHIPS.

Mayor Cooper is overwhelmed with applications from friends of candidates for the two police justiceship vacancies. While the present deadlock exists between the majority of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor it will be impossible to have any nominees confirmed. A good deal of wire-pulling, however, is in progress to again bring about a combination between the anti-Tammany and republican members of the Board. Until such a deal is accomplished no chance exists for the reappointment of Justice Henry Murray. The names of Mr. Charles H. Truax and Mr. George B. Deane, Jr., are now pending before the Board for consideration, but it is on the slate to reject both. The claims of Mr. William F. Kintzing are pressed before the Mayor by ex-Judge Sutherland, William A. Beach, ex-Judge Fullerton, Judges Barrett, Brady, Gildersleeve and others.

JUDGE BRADY ON HEALTH.

"May good digestion wait on appetite and health on both." Such will be the motto of Judge Brady's lecture in aid of St. Francis Hospital to-morrow night. His audience, if it included every man woman and child in New York who suffers the pains of indigestion, would fill a hundred times over the spacious hall of the Cooper Institute. But the learned lecturer will be satisfied if 2,000 people deposit their mite at the ticket office.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND ABUSES.

A THOROUGH RE-ORGANIZATION CALLED FOR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INSANE—BETTER CONDITION OF AFFAIRS ON WARD'S ISLAND.

The Advisory Board of Physicians and Surgeons, consisting of Dr. B. Wood, Drs. Janeway, Pallen, I. P. P. White, Loomis, Whitman V. White and Allen McL. Hamilton, who were requested by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction to report upon the condition of the lunatic asylums, and especially alleged cases of neglect, cruelty and abuse, yesterday filed their report at the department. Speaking of the institutions on Ward's Island under the charge of Dr. McDonald the report says:—"The Board unanimously expressed its commendation of the management of Dr. McDonald." They find that "the institution is very much overcrowded, there being 773 patients in the main building, which was designed to hold but 434. In addition to this number 300 are very imperfectly provided for in an unsuitable 'borrowed' building. The natural tendency of such overcrowding is to increase the frequency of accidents and assaults and to lessen the chances of recovery. The Board urgently recommends the payment of suitable salaries to the assistant physicians." The report expresses gratification at the general management, the condition of the kitchens and the small percentage of sickness, less than three per cent of the patients being in restraint and the records showing an average of less than two per cent in restraint during the past year. "Considering the overcrowded state of the institution, this," says the report, "is a remarkable and gratifying exhibit of the management. The Board advise an increased per capita expense and the employment of a better grade of paid help." The report concludes as follows:—

The obligations of the Honorable Board of Apportionment are such as to demand of it to investigate the facts that the charitable institutions under the charge of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction are not conducted so thoroughly and humanely as they would be if more funds were at their disposal. This metropolis ought not to be behind the spirit of the age in the conduct of its charities. The taxpayers of New York undoubtedly would not object to a few mills in addition to their taxes, nor should the Honorable Board of Apportionment hesitate to advance the general cause of humanity by increasing the comforts of the insane, thereby giving them greater chances for restoration to mental health, by such accommodations as are imperatively demanded.

DRS. STREW AND KINGSTON CENSURED.

The report as to the alleged abuses in the lunatic asylums on Blackwell's Island is not so complimentary to the management as in the case of those on Ward's Island. Speaking of the case of Emma Morrison, who was delivered of a child while the "straight jacket" or camisole was on her person, the report says:—

This camisole was very properly placed upon her to prevent her destructiveness—to protect her from constant nakedness, and to keep her from eating her bed linen and clothing. The Board was unanimous that the use of the camisole was proper and humane. Dr. Strew, the superintendent, and Dr. Kingston, the assistant superintendent, under whose medical care she was, did not know of Emma Morrison's pregnancy until after the birth of the child. This Board unanimously censures them in not knowing the condition of Emma Morrison, but sustains their action in causing her to wear the camisole.

Relative to the alleged starvation of Caroline Weil "the Board finds that it had no foundation in fact, that she died from causes not stated, but evidently from collapse in consequence of a sudden and overpowering diarrhœa, to which she succumbed in a very few hours. The story of Caroline Weil's starvation originated in malice toward her attendant (Dr. Pitkin) upon the part of some one connected with the medical staff or nurses of the institution." After describing the treatment given her by Dr. Pitkin, the report goes on to say:—"This case is most glaring, having been given of the public press without any semblance whatever to truth, with a fell and malignant design to injure Dr. Pitkin, whom the Board believes to be a conscientious physician and honorable gentleman."

THE RAT POISONING CASE.

In the case of Alice Day, who died from a dose of rat poison, "the Board finds that one of the nurses was so careless as to leave a pan filled with rat poison in an unlocked closet, to which access was had by the unfortunate patient, who unobserved ate of it in such quantities as to produce death. Every effort to avert the catastrophe was made by the superintendent and the medical staff, but they were uninformed of the fact until it was too late." The Board censures the nurse in charge of the ward, but as she had already been dismissed by the Commissioners no recommendation of future action is made.

The report concludes as follows:—

From the investigation of these three cases this Board necessarily became informed of facts with regard to the general management of the institutions for the insane situated on Blackwell's Island. The accompanying testimony, which was stenographically reported, clearly indicates that a complete reorganization is immediately requisite, and this Board therefore unanimously recommends that the honorable Commissioners of Charities and Correction take such steps as may be necessary to organize the institutions upon a basis thoroughly conducive to the better treatment and care of the insane there confined.

The Board appointed Drs. Pallen, A. McL. Hamilton and Whitman V. White a committee to aid the Commissioners in such proposed reorganization. They also recommended that Dr. McDonald, superintendent of the Ward's Island institutions, be likewise put in charge of the Blackwell's Island Asylum, and that he be allowed a paid assistant-in-chief at each institution.

A reporter of the HERALD was informed that no action will be taken upon this report until the return of Mr. Cox. Two Commissioners state that under this report they must reorganize the medical staff.

THE COURTS.

Mrs. Hascey, alias Schoonmaker, alleged to be implicated with John T. Lynch, the Broadway diamond broker, who is charged with obtaining $5,000 from Rogers & Fay, the Fulton Market fish dealers, on worthless diamonds, has become tired of languishing in Ludlow Street Jail. Her counsel, Colonel Spencer, obtained an order in Supreme Court, Special Term, placing the case on the calendar for trial next Monday. Motions for vacating the arrest and reducing the bail have heretofore been denied, but the present demand for immediate trial, based on the affidavit of Mrs. Hascey to the effect that it is impossible for her to find bail, has resulted in the case being advanced on the calendar. Mr. John D. Townsend will prosecute for the fish dealers. Some three months ago both Lynch and Mrs. Hascey, as will be remembered, were held by Judge Morgan in criminal proceedings to await the action of the Grand Jury, but thus far no action has been taken in the District Attorney's office against them. Lynch has been released on bail. He is represented in the criminal charge by ex-United States District Attorney George Bliss. It is stated that the priest who was victimized in a similar manner to the tune of $16,000 has had his money returned in full.

KANSAS PACIFIC RAILWAY.

An important suit, which has been pending for some time against the Kansas Pacific Railway, was called up yesterday in Supreme Court, Special Term, on behalf of Ephraim Williams, the plaintiff, who desires a speedy trial. The question presented for decision is the title to some half a million of the capital stock of the railway company, which the latter claims to have forfeited for the non-payment of assessments. The plaintiff contends for various reasons that his stock was not liable to assessment, or if indeed it was so liable then that the company did not go to work in the legal way to enforce such liability. An interesting aspect of the case seems to be that if the Court shall sustain the plaintiff's view something more than the enormous amount of five millions of stock holding like relation to the company is ready to be presented for similar judgment. Also it is alleged that since repudiating this stock the company has issued other stock in its place, so that if the company is compelled to recognize the claim of plaintiff and others similarly situated then an excess of capital will appear, amounting to more than one-half of the company's present issue. Judge Van Brunt set the case down for trial the first Monday of December next. Mr. Knox appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Burrill for defendant.

THE MULLER ESTATE.

The report of the referee, Mr. Amasa A. Redfield, on the charges made against Philip H. Weldersum, the guardian of the infant heir to the Muller estate, was yesterday filed in the Surrogate's office. The examination was based upon a petition recently filed, in which various accusations were made against the guardian by Louis C. Muller's counsel, and on the hearing before the Court the guardian alleged that as Louis was under fourteen years of age he had no standing in court and could not select his own guardian. These issues, with the other charges, were referred to Mr. Redfield, and in his report he finds that "as it is shown that Louis was fourteen years of age at the time of the filing of the petition by overwhelming proofs he has the right of choice." A motion has been made to remove Mr. Wiedersum on this report, and the matter will be argued next Thursday. Mr. Charles Strauss appeared for the infant heir and Mr. J. W. Hawes for the guardian.

WAS THE SIGNATURE FORGED?

Among the mass of contested wills before the Surrogate is that of Gertrude B. Callaghan. When Mrs. Callaghan died, by an alleged will she left her entire estate, worth nearly $100,000, to her husband, Patrick Callaghan. Jesse Peck, a half brother of the decedent, now contests the will on the ground that the signature to the will is a forgery. The matter came before the Surrogate yesterday. Several witnesses were examined relative to the reputation or veracity of one of the subscribing witnesses. Their testimony, however, was unimportant, and the further hearing was adjourned until December.

KIDDLE ON SPIRITUALISM.

Mr. Henry Kiddle lectured last night in Everett Hall, Brooklyn, to the Spiritualistic Conference. His audience was a large one, and fully two-thirds of those present were ladies. The subject chosen by Mr. Kiddle was "The Religious Teachings of Spiritualism," and in treating the theme the speaker assailed the influence of what he termed "priestcraft" over the people. Mr. Kiddle read his lecture, which had evidently been very carefully prepared. He appeared to be in good spirits, and spoke calmly and without apparent effort. He was listened to with marked attention throughout, and when he concluded was heartily applauded.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

MARRIED

ALCHORN—CAVANAGH.—On Wednesday evening, November 12, 1879, at St. Lawrence's Church, New York, by the Rev. Father Petit, S. J., HENRY EDWARD ALCHORN to MARY LOUISE CAVANAGH, both of this city. No cards.

BULLARD—BELCHER.—On Thursday, November 13, 1879, at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, WILLIAM SUMNER BULLARD and ELLA, daughter of Samuel E. Belcher, Esq., all of Brooklyn.

CURTIS—JONES.—On Thursday, November 13, 1879, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. Dr. Wild, CHARLES L. CURTIS to EMILY V., daughter of Thomas Jones, Esq., all of Brooklyn.

FARSON—HAYDEN.—New York, November 13, 1879, at the residence of the bride's uncle, Samuel McComb, Esq., by the Rev. Dr. Houghton, CATHERINE E. FARSON, formerly of Philadelphia, to WILLIAM R. HAYDEN, of Chicago.

Philadelphia, Chicago and St. Louis newspapers please copy.

HAYDEN—POST.—November 13, residence of bride's parents, at Passaic, N. J., by Rev. John Gaston, CHARLES O. HAYDEN to RACHAEL, eldest daughter of Cornelius Post.

HOWARD—RABITTE.—On Thursday, November 13, 1879, at the residence of the bride's mother, Brooklyn, by the Rev. M. J. Moran, HENRY E. HOWARD to FANNIE M., second daughter of the late Charles L. Rabitte, all of Brooklyn. No cards.

KUHN—HUSSEY.—On Thursday, November 13, 1879, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Brooklyn, by the Rev. Fathers McCollum, Nash and McGivern, GEORGE R. KUHN, M. D., of Brooklyn, to MARY E., eldest daughter of Charles Hussey, Esq., of New York.

MERZBACH—LOEB.—On November 5, 1879, LOUIS MERZBACH to Miss CLEMENTINE LOEB, both of New York.

MORGAN—MILLS.—In Brooklyn, on November 13, by the Rev. Wayland Hoyt, D. D., WILLIAM F. MORGAN, to MARY L. MILLS, daughter of the late Charles H. Mills, all of Brooklyn.

RICHARDS—BRISBANE.—In this city, on Tuesday, November 11, 1879, by the Rev. Robert Collyer, WILLIAM G. RICHARDS, of Holyoke, Mass., to FLORA M., only daughter of Albert and Lodoiska Brisbane. No cards.

Buffalo papers please copy.

SCHWALENBERG—STEFFENS.—On Wednesday, November 12, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. A. G. Wedekind, WILLIAM H. SCHWALENBERG, of Long Island City, to CARRIE J. STEFFENS, of New York city. No cards.

SCHIEB—ROBINSON.—On Thursday, November 13, at the residence of the bride's mother, Hoboken, N. J., by the Rev. G. C. Houghton, JEAN F. SCHIEB to FRANCES H. ROBINSON, daughter of the late John F. Robinson. No cards.

WALLACE—PARSONS.—At Oyster Bay, L. I., by the Rev. George R. Van De Water, on Wednesday, November 12, WILLIAM S. WALLACE to M. A. PARSONS, both of this city. No cards.

WERNEKEN—McCAFFREY.—On Wednesday, November 12, at the Church of St. Charles Borromeo, by Rev. Dr. Freel, FRANK W. WERNEKEN to KATIE A. McCAFFREY, both of Brooklyn.

DIED.

ACKERLY.—At Riverhead, L. I., Thursday evening, 13th inst., MARIA K., wife of Orville B. Ackerly and youngest daughter of Nathan Corwin, aged 39.

Funeral on Sunday, at two P. M., from her late residence.

ASIEL.—SOPHIA, beloved wife of Elias Asiel, after a short illness, in her 25th year.

Relatives and friends of the family, also members of the Temple Beth-El, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral service, from her late residence, No. 122 East 56th st., on Monday morning, at nine A. M. No flowers.

BARRETT.—On November 14, RICHARD BARRETT, native of Mallow, county Cork, Ireland.

Funeral takes place from St. Mary's Church, Hoboken, on Sunday, November 16, at one o'clock P. M. Relatives and friends and those of his brothers, John, James, David, Thomas and William, are requested to attend. To be interred in Calvary Cemetery.

BARNES.—On Wednesday, November 12, ELIZA, widow of the late George Barnes.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend funeral services, at her late residence, New Dorp, Staten Island, on Sunday, November 16, at half-past two P. M. Carriages will await the arrival of the one o'clock boat from New York.

BISHOP—ARCHIBALD BISHOP, aged 59.

Funeral Monday, one P. M., from No. 339 West 54th st.

Friends of the family are invited.

BROPHY.—On Friday, November 14, ROSANNA LARKIN, beloved wife of William Brophy, aged 55 years.

Funeral Sunday, at two o'clock, from her late residence, 939 8th av.

BROWNE.—On Thursday, November 13, Mrs. MARGARET BROWNE, wife of James Browne, native of Kilrush, county Clare, Ireland, in the 46th year of her age.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, No. 113 Monroe st., New York city, on Sunday, 16th, at two P. M.

CONVERY.—At his late residence, No. 109 Carroll st., Brooklyn, on Thursday evening, November 13, PETER J. CONVERY, aged 28 years.

Friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from St. Stephen's Church, on Sunday, November 16, at two P. M. sharp.

COOLEY.—On Thursday morning, November 13, BENJAMIN P. COOLEY, second son of Joshua S. and Anna Maria Cooley, in the 22d year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his parents, 107 West 48th st., on Sunday, November 16, at half-past one P. M.

DOWNING.—On Thursday, November 13, 1879, ANNIE, beloved daughter of Patrick and Annie Downing, of Lismore, county Waterford, Ireland, aged 3 years and 8 months.

Funeral from the residence of her parents, 319 East 21st st., on Sunday, November 16, at two P. M.

EDDY.—November 15, DEBORAH H. EDDY, widow of the late John Eddy, in the 85th year of her age.

Funeral at Woodrow Methodist Episcopal Church, Staten Island, November 17, at one P. M.

FINN.—On Friday, November 14, JAMES FINN, in the 40th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family, also members of the Metropolitan Gasfitters' Aid Association, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, 345 East 39th st., on Sunday, November 16, at half-past one P. M.

St. Louis papers please copy.

GARCIA.—LA UNIVERSALL LODGE, 751, F. AND A. M.—BRETHREN—You are hereby requested to attend the funeral of Brother Juan Garcia's son, from the residence of his parents, No. 33 4th st., Brooklyn, E. D., on Sunday, the 16th, at two P. M., sharp.

FAUSTINO LOZANO, Master.

HAMMILL.—Suddenly, on November 14, FRANCIS JOHN, son of Francis J. and Ann Hammill, aged 11 years, 8 months and 20 days.

Funeral from the residence of his parents, 217 West 17th st. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Sunday, November 16.

HARMAN.—November 15, 1879, AGNES EUGENIA, wife of George A. Harman.

Friends are invited to call at her late residence, No. 202 West 53d st. The remains will be taken to Baltimore for interment.

KENT.—Wednesday, November 12, JAMES KENT, son of the late Charles and Ann Kent, aged 15 years.

Will be buried on Sunday, 16th inst., at one o'clock, from his mother's residence 300 East 113th st.

LOZIER.—On November 14, after a lingering illness, CHARLES H. LOZIER, in the 55th year of his age.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the Presbyterian Church, 13th st., between 6th and 7th avs., on Monday, at one o'clock.

McDERMOTT.—In Brooklyn, November 15, 1879, PATRICK McDERMOTT, aged 54 years, of the county Longford, parish of Collumbkill, Ireland.

The relatives and friends of the deceased are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of the deceased, from his late residence, 224 Hamilton av., South Brooklyn, on Monday, November 17, 1879, at half-past nine A. M.; thence to St. Mary's Star of the Sea, where a solemn requiem mass will be offered for the repose of the soul of the deceased, and thence to the Cemetery of the Holy Cross, Flatbush.

McMANUS.—On November 15, at two o'clock, LOUISA AGNES, the beloved and eldest daughter of Redmond and Alice McManus, aged 13 years and 9 months.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, No. 836 Monroe st., Brooklyn, on Monday, November 17, at two o'clock P. M.

O'DONNELL.—Friday, November 14, AGNES A. O'DONNELL, the wife of Charles O'Donnell, in the 41st year of her age.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, 135 Mescrole av., Greenpoint, on Monday, November 17, at two o'clock.

O'NEIL.—On November 13, CHARLES E. O'NEIL, 25 years, son of Owen O'Neil and grandson of Charles O'Neil, of Ballymore, Eustace, Coughlandstown, county Kildare, Ireland.

Funeral to take place on Sunday, November 16, from his late residence, No. 616 8th av., at one P. M. Relatives and friends and members of Young Men's Catholic Lyceum are respectfully invited to attend.

Leinster Express please copy.

YOUNG MEN'S CATHOLIC LYCEUM, 309 WEST 33D ST.—The members of the Lyceum are respectfully invited to meet in the parlors, Sunday, November 16, at a quarter to one sharp, to make arrangements to attend the funeral of our late fellow member, Mr. Charles E. O'Neil. J. F. MARTIN, Secretary.

POPE.—November 12, EVE, wife of John H. Pope, in the 27th year of her age.

Funeral Sunday, November 16, at one P. M., from her late residence, No. 257 Greenwich st.

Chicago papers please copy.

RAY.—On Saturday, November 15, MINNIE, beloved daughter of James E. and Margaret Ray, aged 4 years, 11 months and 28 days.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, 213 East 117th st., on Monday, November 17, at one P. M.

REED.—On Thursday, JAMES REED, a native of the parish of Castletown Kilpatrick, county Meath, Ireland, aged 75 years.

Funeral Sunday, November 16, at one o'clock P. M., from the residence of his son Matthew S., No. 264 West 26th st.

Atlanta (Ga.), Mobile (Ala.) and New Orleans (La.) papers please copy.

ROMAINE.—Suddenly, on the 15th inst., of membraneous croup, FLORENCE ELLA, youngest child of Frank H. and Julia Romaine.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

SETON.—On Saturday, November 15, WILLIAM B. SETON.

Funeral from his late residence, 686 Flushing avenue, Brooklyn, Monday, November 17, at two o'clock P. M.

Scottish papers please copy.

SWEENEY.—In Brooklyn, on the 14th inst., JOHN F. SWEENEY, in the 30th year of his age.

Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his mother's residence, 232 Bridge st., on Sunday, the 16th, at two o'clock P. M.

SYERS.—Suddenly, on Thursday, November 13, 1879, ALICE GREEY, only daughter of the late William Syers, of Litherland, Lancashire, England.

Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, 117 East 123d st., at nine o'clock on Monday morning, November 17, when her remains will be taken to St. Joseph's Church, 125th st. and 9th av., where high mass will be offered for the repose of her soul.

Liverpool and Manchester papers please copy.

TICE.—At Jersey City, November 15, 1879, of Bright's disease of the kidneys, JOHN TICE, in the 72d year of his age.

Funeral to take place from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. R. K. Hackett, at ten o'clock A. M., Tuesday, November 18, at 66 Montgomery st., Jersey City, N. J.

TYLEE.—On Thursday, November 13, at the residence of her son, at Paterson, N. J., ANN ELIZA, wife of John S. Tylee, in the 65th year of her age.

Funeral on Monday morning, November 17, at ten o'clock, from the residence of her son, 260 East Van Houton st., Paterson, N. J.

VERMILYE.—On Thursday evening, November 13, 1879, THEODORE C. VERMILYE, of New Brighton, Staten Island, in the 55th year of his age.

Funeral services Monday, November 17, at St. John's Church, Clifton, S. I., at two o'clock.

WALSH.—On November 14, at 212 West 40th st., MARY E. WALSH.

Her funeral takes place Monday, from Church of Holy Innocents. Her friends are invited to the funeral at half-past nine A. M.

WILLIAMS.—On Saturday, November 15, ELIZABETH, relict